the scheme of National Literacy Mission (NLM) Support to NGOs in the field of Adult Education. Details of the grants are as under:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1998-99	6.65
1999-2000	9.00
2000-2001	11.00

The Organisations maintain accounts and get the final accounts for the year audited by Government Auditors/Chartered Accountant and submit these in original to the Ministry alongwith the Utilisation Certificate on completion of the project or within 6 months from the close of financial year whichever is earlier.

Non-formal Education Centers

1412. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, Students future bleak in schools that don't exist appearing in the Hindustan Times of 22nd February, 2002;

(b) whether the scheme of Non-formal Education Centres (NECs) was scrapped by the Centre two years ago;

(c) whether about 3000 students of NECs in Bhopal only have not been allowed to appear in examinations this year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) what steps are being taken by the Centre to decide the fate of these students; and

(f) what are the comparative figures of students studying in NECs, throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme of Non-formal education was discontinued from 1.4.2001 and has been replaced by Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative & Innovative Education (EGS&AIE) w.e.f. 1.4.2001.

(c) to (e) The State Government have since allowed students studying in the schools running in the name of NFE Centres in the State to appear in Board examinations for 5th and 8th classes.

(f) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

National strategy for school going girls

1413. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a national strategy for school going girls of the country, particularly the girls from rural and tribal areas;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) by when Government would start implementing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT[DR.(SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) A National scheme for girls education is presently being formulated and would be implemented as soon as it is finalized and approved.

Mid-day Meal Scheme in tribal and backward areas

1414. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mid-day meal programme is being implemented in all the primary schools in backward and tribal areas;

(b) if so, the coverage of the programme in these areas;

(c) the efforts being made to strengthen this programme in these areas; and

(d) how far this programme has been successful in improving drop-out rates in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education commonly known as Mid-day Meal Scheme aims to cover all students in classes I—V in Government, Government-aided and local body schools including schools in